

DOWNEAST REGION

DIRECTIONS

Take U.S. Route 1 to Edmunds and look for park signs marking the turn-off onto South Edmunds Road. The main park entrance is on the right 0.5 miles from the turnoff.



FEES

All fees are payable at the Park's entrance booth. For more information on camping reservations and fees visit www.campwithme.com.

CONTACTS

Cobscook Bay State Park
40 South Edmunds Road
Edmunds Twp, Maine 04628
207-726-4412
bpl@maine.gov

Cobscok Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
207-733-2201
www.cobscokbay.com

For travel information about the state go to www.visitmaine.com
For travel information about the region go to www.downeastacadia.com

SERVICES & FACILITIES

- Tent camping (some walk-to, some drive-to); RV camping (no hookups) and 5 lean-to sites
- Picnic tables (some covered) and fire rings
- Privies
- Hot showers for campers
- Camper trailer dumping station
- Potable water
- Area guides and brochures at park entrance
- Group picnic area with lean-tos
- Grassy playground area and recreational field
- 1.75 miles of hiking trails
- Public boat launch



COBSCOOK BAY STATE PARK

GUIDE & MAP

**A great base for
family camping and exploration
in easternmost Maine**



www.parksandlands.com



Arthur Downing

OVERVIEW

The wildlife-rich waters of Cobscook Bay surround this 888-acre park on three sides, providing opportunities to watch birds and observe the ebb and flow of the region's impressive tides. Cobscook, the Maliseet-Passamaquoddy tribal word for "boiling tides," aptly describes this setting where the tidal range averages 24 feet and can reach 28 feet (compared to a 9-foot average tide along Maine's southernmost coast).

Cobscook Bay State Park is a great base for family camping and explorations in easternmost Maine. Many of the park's 106 campsites (both for tenting and RVs) border Whiting Bay, a sheltered inlet within the larger bay. The Park offers a boat launch for those with the experience to handle boating in challenging conditions (with rapids created by fast-moving tides).

Cobscook Bay is an unusual estuary with a narrow opening to the sea, a long and convoluted shoreline, and relatively few feeder streams and rivers. Nutrient-rich salt water flowing in from the Gulf of Maine stimulates plankton growth, which in turn feeds a vast array of invertebrates (such as shellfish and marine worms). Eagles, ospreys, seals, otters and even the occasional bear enjoy the Bay's abundant fish, including smelt, alewives, shad, sea-run brook trout, striped bass and the Atlantic salmon.

The Bay's productive food web nourishes more than 200 bird species (see www.mainebirdingtrail.com for more details). Attracted by Cobscook Bay's sheltered coves, mudflats, and eelgrass beds, thousands of shorebirds stop over each fall to rest and forage as they migrate south from northern breeding grounds. The Bay's inner coves support a quarter of Maine's wintering black ducks and the state's highest concentration of bald eagles. A free birding list for the Cobscook Bay region is available at the Park entrance.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The Park's geology is shaped by three primary forces: Cobscook Bay's powerful tides; the underlying bedrock (a volcanic tuff-breccia that dates back to the Silurian Age roughly 420 million years ago); and the glacial action from the Wisconsin ice sheet (approximately 12,000-18,000 years ago)—which deposited mud and an assortment of rock, sand, silt and clay known as glacial till. These sediments form a thin layer over the bedrock that rarely exceeds 10 feet. Where the bedrock is exposed, grooves left by the ice sheet (known as glacial striations) are visible on rock surfaces. One of the first geologists to explore the area, Nathaniel S. Shaler, noted in 1886 that Cobscook Bay offers “a more interesting assemblage of phenomena than can be found on any other part of the eastern seaboard of the United States.” More information on this geologic legacy can be found at <http://iceagetrail.umaine.edu/>.

Cobscook Bay State Park is part of Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, much of which was first purchased in 1937 with funds from the federal Duck Stamp Program. Moosehorn (which now totals 24,400 acres) is one of the nation's oldest refuges, having been designated a National Wildlife Refuge in 1937 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt (who summered on nearby Campobello Island in New Brunswick).

In 1964, the Refuge offered the State of Maine a long-term lease at no cost on a "Recreation Area" it had created along Whiting Bay. After approval by the Maine Legislature, management of the area was transferred to the State and Cobscook Bay State Park was established.

Text and Layout: Headwaters Writing & Design
(www.hwaters.com)

Maps: Center for Community GIS
(www.community-gis.org)

VISITOR RULES

- Camp only at established sites, many of which can be reserved in advance at www.campwithme.com.
- Observe wildlife from far enough away that they do not change their behavior: do not follow or feed animals. Avoid areas with nesting birds, dens or young animals (even those that appear abandoned).
- Keep pets on leash (less than 4 feet) at all times and do not leave pets unattended.
- No hunting is permitted.
- Park rules prohibit use of intoxicating beverages.
- Do not leave valuables unattended in your vehicle.
- Quiet in camping areas is required between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- If no red tide warnings are posted, campers may dig up to a peck of clams per person per day during the strictly regulated season. Check with park staff for details.

Consider lending a hand. Contact the Park if you would like to help with stewardship or maintenance work.

TRAILS

Cobscook Bay State Park has two short trails appropriate for walkers of all ages.

The Nature Trail, which begins near the Park entrance, offers a forested, one-mile path that leads through forests, passes along a brook and then rises to two scenic outlooks with views out over Whiting Bay and Burnt Cove. The trail up to the outlook has a short, steep and rocky section: take extra care here in wet weather. Walkers can return on a gravel road (for a 2-mile round trip).

The Shore Trail (also known as the Anthony’s Beach Trail) is a 0.75-mile loop path that begins beside campsite 17, following near the shore to the boat launch, and then winding back through woods to come out between campsites 18 and 20. Many visitors enjoy shoreline explorations as well, but please don’t wander into waterfront campsites and be mindful of fast-moving tides.

If you are not camping at the park but want to use the trails, stop at the park entrance to obtain a map and pay the day-use fee.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

When boating or exploring along the shore, be mindful of how quickly the tides can move. Supervise children closely near the water.

While daytime summer temperatures average about 68° F (20° C.), evenings and gray days can be chilly. Downeast Maine is famous for fog so be prepared for low visibility (particularly if boating). In winter, expect daytime temperatures around 18° F (-8° C.) and take extra care in snow and ice.

In late spring and early summer, be prepared for mosquitoes, black flies and midges (no-see-ums). While the area is not heavily infested with deer ticks, it is advisable to check yourself daily to prevent Lyme disease.

WHEN TO VISIT

The campground is open from May 15 through October 15. However, visitors may enjoy trails in the park at any season. Shorebird migration in Cobscook Bay generally peaks in late August and early September. Mosquitoes, black flies and no-see-ums frequent the park from late May through July: they are less common in August, September and October. In winter, park staff maintains cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails, a sliding hill, and a skating pond. Call the park for current winter conditions.

NEARBY DESTINATIONS

Cobscook Bay State Park lies within the Downeast-Acadia Region (www.downeastacadia.com) that encompasses Hancock and Washington counties and represents the easternmost corner of the United States. Nearby destinations include:

- **Campobello Island** in New Brunswick, Canada (across the International Bridge from Lubec) is home to the historic Roosevelt Campobello International Park and East Quoddy Light.
- **Quoddy Head State Park** in Lubec has a photogenic lighthouse and scenic waterfront trails along the easternmost point of land in the United States.
- **Roque Bluffs State Park** south of Machias has a long pebble beach, hiking trails, picnic tables, playground and freshwater pond.
- **Cutler Coast Public Lands** offer 10 miles of trails with 4.5 miles of frontage along the dramatic “Bold Coast.”
- **Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge** has a 6-mile wilderness loop trail one mile from Cobscook Bay State Park.

For further hiking opportunities, purchase the *Cobscook Trails* guide in area stores or from Downeast Coastal Conservancy (207-255-4500 or www.downeastcoastalconservancy.org).

